

Community Briefing

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2

APRIL - JUNE 2008



WORDS FROM CHIEF HALL

Welcome once more to the Westminster Police Department's "Community Briefing," a newsletter that describes the people and programs of the Westminster Police Department. We're pleased you have taken time to review this material and hope you will feel comfortable contacting us with any feedback that might help to improve this newsletter or our service to the community.

This month we focus on a number of special events that raise funds for various causes. Employees of the Westminster Police Department volunteer their time and money to many charitable causes and have a long history of community involvement and charitable giving. I hope you enjoy learning about some of those activities in this edition of our newsletter.

Pool Safety



As the summer heat continues and more families visit pools, please observe the following safety tips:

- Install a fence at least four-feet high around all four sides of the pool. The fence should not have openings or protrusions that a young child could use to get over, under, or through.
- Make sure pool gates open out from the pool, and self-close and self-latch at a height children can't reach.
- Never leave children alone in or near the pool, even for a moment.
- Keep rescue equipment (a shepherd's hook - a long pole with a hook on the end - and life preserver) and a portable telephone near the pool. Choose a shepherd's hook and other rescue equipment made of fiberglass or other materials that do not conduct electricity.
- Avoid inflatable swimming aids such as "floaties." They are not a substitute for approved life vests and can give children a false sense of security.
- Children may not be developmentally ready for swim lessons until after their fourth birthday. Swim programs for children under 4 should not be seen as a way to decrease the risk of drowning.
- Whenever infants or toddlers are in or around water, an adult should be within arm's length, providing "touch supervision."

Inside This Issue

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Words from Chief Hall |
| 1 | Summer Safety |
| 2 | Remembering Sergeant Marcus Frank |
| 3 | New Faces |
| 3 | Project 999 Bike Ride |
| 4 | Torch Run for Special Olympics |
| 4 | Relay for Life |
| 4 | Distinguished Service Awards |
| 4 | Safety Day Reminder |
| 5 | Entertainment Book Fundraiser Reminder |

REMEMBERING SERGEANT MARCUS FRANK

On May 13, 2008, a memorial ceremony was held at the Westminster Police Department's memorial site to honor fallen officer Sergeant Marcus Frank. The evening vigil was attended by Sergeant Frank's family, City Council members, Community Leaders, Westminster Police Department Honor Guard and a multitude of City employees.



During the ceremony, Sergeant Frank's family unveiled the new plaque which was recently affixed to the base of the memorial. This memorial is a sign of the department's memory of an appreciation for our fallen officers. The memorial is evidence of the Westminster Police Department's commitment to community service.



NEW FACES



Paul Muresan joined the WPD family on May 15, 2008, as our newest volunteer Police Chaplain. Chaplain Muresan was born in Romania and moved to the United States in 1983.

Since 1991 he has lead 13 mission trips to Romania; serving the needs of thousands of children and families. Chaplain Muresan also has been a part of mission trips to the Philippines, Mexico and many across the United States.

In October of 2004, Chaplain Muresan was ordained as a minister and became an Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Westminster. Chaplain Muresan's passion is mission work.

Chaplain Muresan is married and has 2 children. He enjoys reading, soccer and vacationing with his family. Chaplain Muresan is excited to join our WPD family and looks forward to working with the members of our department and the community.

PROJECT 999: MEMORIAL BIKE RIDE

On May 16, 2008, a group of bicycle riders representing Police Agencies throughout Orange County joined together to commemorate the lives of those Orange County Police Officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice - they've given their lives in the line of duty. The riders did this by cycling 630 miles from Sacramento to Orange County to raise money for Project 999.

Each participant in the ride represents an Orange County law enforcement officer who has been killed in the line of duty.



The grueling 630 mile, five day journey is the largest fund raiser for Project 999, a foundation formed in 1980 by the Orange County Sheriff's Advisory Council. The mission of Project 999 is to assist the family of any Orange County POST Certified Deputy or Officer who is injured or killed in the line of duty.



The foundation has raised in excess of one million dollars for the sole purpose of assisting peace officers and their families.



TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS



On June 13, 2008, our department participated in the 2008 Southern California Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics. WPD received the torch from Garden Grove PD at the intersection of Garden Grove Blvd. and Goldenwest St. WPD handed off the torch to Fountain Valley PD at the intersection of Magnolia St. and Edinger Ave.



Westminster's 3rd Annual "Relay for Life" will take place in the Westminster Civic Center complex, Saturday, August 9th and Sunday, August 10th, 9:00 am to 9:00 pm.

Relay for Life is the # 1 fund raising event for the American Cancer Society and 96% of the money raised goes to: Patient Services, Advocacy and Research. Money raised in California stays in California.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS



During the City Council meeting on June 25, 2008, the following employees were the recipients of prestigious honors:

Sergeant Mark Nye

Received the Bronze Medal of Merit for his outstanding individual performance while supervising the scene where officers had been fired upon.

Officer Cameron Knauerhaze

Received the Bronze Medal of Merit for his life saving efforts of a small child who had been struck by a vehicle.

Dispatcher Stephanie Subia

Received the Bronze Medal of Merit for her outstanding performance in effectively dealing with a suicidal subject.

Safety Day

Public Awareness Safety Day is July 29th at Sigler Park from 11:00AM to 1:00PM.
Mark your calendar!

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Officer of the Month – April OFFICER VAN WOODSON

Officer Woodson was patrolling residential areas due to numerous burglary reports. He noticed a silver Mercedes Benz with a license plate similar to a suspect vehicle involved in a residential burglary the week before. He contacted two occupants in the vehicle. His investigations led to the arrest of both subjects for the previous burglary. His excellent investigation and diligence in checking residential areas led to these arrests and the clearing of at least one or more residential burglaries.

Civilian Employee of the Month – April DISPATCHER VALERIE OBERLE DISPATCHER ROXANNE MORALES

On April 13, 2008, dispatch received several 911 calls due to an intoxicated suicidal subject leaving his friend's residence with a shotgun. The subject subsequently robbed two liquor stores and held fifteen patrons at gunpoint in C'est Si Bon. Due to one dispatcher being on a lunch break, there were only two dispatchers handling this entire series of events.

Dispatcher Oberle did an exceptional job handling all the phone calls, requesting mutual aid, and assisting Dispatcher Morales with field requests. Even with the high volume of phone calls, Dispatcher Oberle maintained professionalism and compassion for each caller.

Dispatcher Morales handled the high volume of radio traffic, relaying critical updates in a timely manner, keeping track of the locations of all field units and clearing the air for a crisis entry at the C'est Si Bon. Dispatcher Morales also did well deciphering unclear radio transmissions.

Shortly after the suspect was taken into custody at the C'est Si Bon, Dispatcher Oberle handled a call from a suicidal subject who was holding a razor blade to his throat. Dispatcher Oberle did an outstanding job calming the caller down, speaking with him for ten minutes until officers arrived. It was clear the caller calmed down due to the compassionate manner Dispatcher Oberle was speaking with him.

Dispatcher Oberle and Morales are to be commended for the exceptional manner in which they handled these series of events. They remained calm and focused during a critical time.

Quality Customer Service Alert- April OFFICER JERRY WACKERMAN

On April 15, 2008, Officer Jerry Wackerman contacted a citizen with car problems. She changed her own tire and put on the spare only to realize that the spare tire was also flat. Officer Wackerman took off the spare and took the citizen and her tire to the gas station. He put air in the tire and made sure it was okay. Then he drove back to the citizen's car and put the spare tire back on.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Quality Customer Service Alert- May RECORDS SPECIALIST THUY DUONG

On May 7, 2008, Thuy Duong received a call from a Vietnamese citizen who was very upset because her boyfriend left her and she had no money. She was pregnant and said she was frightened and lonely. She had two children and did not know how she was going to take care of them.

The woman wanted WPD to go to her home so she could show her situation in hopes that she would be believed and helped. Thuy explained that was not a police function and suggested the citizen call Social Services. The woman tried calling, but called back in tears because she was unable to find someone who spoke Vietnamese.

Thuy took it upon herself and called the Women's Transitional Living Center. She explained the woman's situation to her and they were able to give her names of people to contact who spoke Vietnamese and who would go to the woman's house.

Thuy was very busy during the time she was assisting this woman, and could have easily told her she would need to find someone to call on her behalf and assist her. However, Thuy chose to assist the woman beyond the scope of her duties and represented WPD in a positive way.

Quality Customer Service Alert- June SPECIAL SERVICES CLERK GINA WOLLAND

On June 10, 2008, Gina Wolland was on her way to her vehicle when she was approached by a woman. She was speaking Vietnamese and spoke very little English, but Gina was able to ascertain from her that she couldn't find her car. Immediately, Gina offered to help the lady look for her vehicle. As they walked through the parking lot Gina asked the woman a series of questions, but the woman simply could not remember where she left her car. After looking through different areas of the Civic Center, Gina decided to take the woman across the street to the court parking lot. After a few moments the vehicle was located.

Gina showed great kindness and compassion by helping this confused lady search for her car. Rather than abandoning the lady, Gina decided to spend a half hour helping her.



SIGN UP FOR FREE AMBER ALERTS ON YOUR CELL PHONE.

Go to wirelessameralerts.org. Sign up today. Then when an AMBER Alert is issued in the areas you've chosen, you'll receive a free text message. If you spot the vehicle, the suspect or the child described in the Alert, call 911. If your phone is wireless, you're no longer helpless.



A child is calling for help.



WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER FUNDRAISER

**PRESALE ORDERS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE
Entertainment® 2009 Books.**

Books are scheduled to ship the week of August 25, 2008.

Entertainment® 2009 Orange County edition is selling for the price of **\$35.00**. Please place order with Jenny Truong at jtruong@ci.westminster.ca.us or via phone at **714-898-3315 ext 591**.

Other editions are also available by preorder. Entertainment coupon books can be used to get deep discounts on travel, sporting events, dining, movies and more - **Plus, fundraiser supporters can purchase the Entertainment book at \$5 less than regular retail price.**



**The Entertainment Book pays for itself
in just a few uses with \$1000s in savings!**

Your supporters will save 50% on things they do everyday:



dining



travel



groceries



movie tickets



dry cleaning

**...and
more!**